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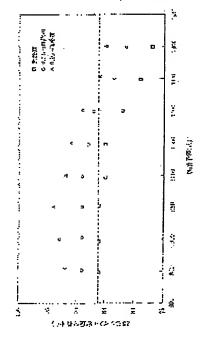
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(54) NON-AQUEOUS ELECTROLYTE SECONDARY BATTERY AND ITS MANUFACTURING METHOD

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery in which loading performance and cycle performance are improved even if additional amount of zirconium is small as less than 1 mol%.

SOLUTION: In this non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery, cobalt complex oxide, containing lithium of hexagonal crystals which are added by 0.01 mol% or more and 0.9 mol% or less of zirconium by co-precipitation in synthesizing a cobalt compound (for example, cobalt carbonate and cobalt hydroxide) to become the cobalt source is used as a positive electrode active material. Because of this, compared with such a case that zirconium is added in baking a cobalt complex oxide containing lithium, zirconium by a smaller amount is added more homogeneously on the surface of the cobalt complex oxide containing lithium. In this case, it is preferable that a crystallite diameter in (110) vector direction of the positive electrode active material is 900 & angst; or more and 1,100 & angst; or less. By this, without accompanying capacity reduction or safety reduction, the improvement of cycle performance can be achieved.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

It is the nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery provided with positive active material in which occlusion and discharge of a lithium ion are possible, negative electrode active material in which occlusion and discharge of a lithium ion are possible, and a nonaqueous electrolyte, said positive active material — the time of composition of a cobalt compound as a source of cobalt — coprecipitation — a zirconium — more than 0.01 mol % and less than 0.9 mol % — a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery being a lithium content cobalt multiple oxide of an added hexagonal system.

[Claim 2]

The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein crystallite diameters of vector directions (110) are not less than 900A and 1100A or less and said zirconium is distributing said positive active material uniformly on the surface of said lithium content cobalt multiple oxide. [Claim 3]

It is a manufacturing method of a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery provided with positive active material in which occlusion and discharge of a lithium ion are possible, negative electrode active material in which occlusion and discharge of a lithium ion are possible, and a nonaqueous electrolyte, making a zirconium an initial cobalt compound for carrying out pyrolysis generation of the cobalt compound used as a source of cobalt with positive active material — more than 0.01 mol % and less than 0.9 mol % — a coprecipitation process made to coprecipitate so that it may be added, A mixing process which mixes the 1st ingredient that consists of a cobalt compound in which said zirconium coprecipitated, and the 2nd ingredient that consists of a lithium compound used as a lithium source, and is used as a mixture,

A manufacturing method of a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery provided with a baking process which calcinates said mixture.

[Claim 4]

A manufacturing method of the nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 3 calcinating said mixture in said baking process so that a crystallite diameter of vector directions (110) may be not less than 900A and 1100A or less.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]

This invention relates to a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery provided with the positive active material in which the occlusion and discharge of a lithium ion are possible, the negative electrode active material in which the occlusion and discharge of a lithium ion are possible, and a nonaqueous electrolyte, and a manufacturing method for the same.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]

In recent years as a cell used for a portable electron, communication equipment, etc., such as a small video camera, a cellular phone, and a notebook computer, A lithium ion is used as negative electrode active material for occlusion, the alloy which can be emitted, or a carbon material, Cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO₂), nickel acid lithium (LiNiO₂), the nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery which uses lithium containing transition metal oxides, such as manganic acid lithium (LiMn₂O₄), as positive active material – a small light weight – and it came to be put in practical use as a chargeable and dischargeable cell in high capacity.

[0003]

If it is in nickel acid lithium (LiNiO_2) among the lithium containing transition metal oxides used for the positive active material of the nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery mentioned above, While it had the feature of being high capacity, it was inferior to safety, and since it had the fault that excess voltage was large, it was inferior to cobalt acid lithium. If it was in manganic acid lithium $(\text{LiMn}_2\text{O}_4)$, while it had the feature that resources are abundant and that it is cheap, since it had the fault that manganese itself dissolved at an elevated temperature with low energy density, it was inferior to cobalt acid lithium. For this reason, in the present, it is in use to use cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO_2) as a lithium containing transition metal oxide.

[0004]

By the way, since cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO₂) is put to the potential beyond 4V to lithium, if this is used for the positive active material of a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery, whenever it repeats a charging and discharging cycle, cobalt will come to be eluted from an anode. For this reason, the anode deteriorated and the problem that the capacitance characteristics after a cycle and a load characteristic fell was produced, then, the time of calcinating a lithium source and the source of cobalt and compounding cobalt acid lithium — a zirconium — 1–10-mol% — it adds and the nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery which raised load performance and cycle performance came to be proposed with the patent documents 1 (JP,4-319260,A).

[Patent documents 1]

JP,4-319260,A

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]

However, the zirconium produced the problem that the addition of a zirconium followed on increasing and cell capacity fell in order not to contribute to a cell reaction (charge-and-discharge reaction). For example, when the addition of the zirconium added to cobalt acid lithium was 1-mol%, it became clear that capacity falls 3% compared with the time of additive-free.

Then, it aims at providing the nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery load performance and whose cycle performance improved, even if it is an addition of a small amount of (less than [1mol%]) zirconiums to which cell capacity is not reduced in this invention.

[0006]

[Means for Solving the Problem]

In order to attain the above-mentioned purpose, a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery of this invention, the time of composition of a cobalt compound (for example, cobalt carbonate, cobalt hydroxide) as a source of cobalt — coprecipitation — a zirconium — more than 0.1 mol% — less than 0.9 mol% — he is trying to use a lithium content cobalt multiple oxide of an added hexagonal system as positive active material If a zirconium is added by coprecipitation at the time of composition of cobalt compounds, such as cobalt carbonate and cobalt hydroxide, here, Compared with a case where a zirconium is added at the time of calcination of a lithium content cobalt multiple oxide, a zirconium comes to be homogeneously added by the surface of a lithium content cobalt multiple oxide in a small quantity.

[0007]

When a zirconium was homogeneously added according to coprecipitation as mentioned above, even if it was 0.5-mol% of an addition, it became clear that a cycle performance improvement effect equivalent to addition used as heterogeneous 5.0-mol% of addition at the time of calcination is acquired, for example. And as for a lower limit of an addition of a zirconium, since it is equivalent to heterogeneous 1.0-mol% of addition at the time of calcination even if it is 0.01-mol% of an addition, carrying out to 0.01-mol% is desirable. Since not less than 3% of capacity lowering has an addition of a zirconium at 1.0-mol%, an addition of a zirconium is more than 0.01mol%, and it is desirable that it is less than 0.9mol%. As a result, improvement in cycle performance can be attained now by addition of a small quantity of a zirconium. [0008]

In this case, it became clear that thermal stability in a charging state falls that a crystallite diameter of vector directions (110) of a lithium content cobalt multiple oxide is 900A or less. When a crystallite diameter of vector directions (110) of a lithium content cobalt multiple oxide became not less than 1100A, while safety at the time of continuation charge fell, it became clear that cycle performance falls. In order to acquire good cycle performance and thermal stability from these things (110), it is desirable for a crystallite diameter of vector directions to choose and use a lithium content cobalt multiple oxide (not less than 900A and 1100A or less).

[0009]

And in order to obtain the above positive active material. making a zirconium an initial cobalt compound for carrying out pyrolysis generation of the cobalt compound used as a source of cobalt with positive active material — more than 0.01mol% and less than 0.9mol% — with a coprecipitation process made to coprecipitate so that it may be added. What is necessary is just to have a mixing process which mixes the 1st ingredient that consists of a cobalt compound in which a zirconium coprecipitated, and the 2nd ingredient that consists of a lithium compound used as a lithium source, and is used as a mixture, and a baking process which calcinates a mixture. In this case, in a baking process, it is desirable for positive active material to be a process calcinated so that a crystallite diameter of vector directions (110) may be not less than 900A and 1100A or less.

[0010]

In this invention, while excelling in thermal stability and showing high safety, a cycle characteristic at the time of an elevated temperature improves, and in order to provide a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery which controlled degradation at the time of charge preservation, the feature is in a point using specific positive active material. Therefore, a material more publicly known than before can be used about a negative pole material, a separator material, nonaqueous electrolyte material, and binder material.

[0011]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

Subsequently, although an embodiment of the invention is described below, in the range which is not limited to this embodiment at all and does not change the purpose of this invention, it changes suitably and this invention can be carried out.

[0012]

1. Production of positive active material

First, after adding the zirconium sulfate (ZrSO₄) of the specified quantity in a cobalt sulfate (CoSO₄)

solution, the zirconium (Zr) was made to coprecipitate by adding sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO $_3$) at the time of cobalt carbonate (CoCO $_3$) composition. Then, the tricobalt tetroxide (Co $_3$ O $_4$) of the zirconium addition as a starting material of the source of cobalt was obtained for these by the thermal decomposition reaction. Subsequently, after preparing lithium carbonate (Li $_2$ CO $_3$) as a starting material of a lithium source, weighing was carried out so that the mole ratio of lithium and cobalt might be set to 1:1. Subsequently, after mixing these with a mortar, the obtained mixture was calcinated at 850 ** in the air for 20 hours, and the zirconium compounded the baking body of the cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO $_2$) added by the surface. Then, the compound baking body was ground until mean particle diameter was set to 10 micrometers, and it was considered as positive active material. [0013]

Here, positive active material compounded so that the addition of a zirconium (Zr) might be 0.01-mol% was used as the positive active material alpha. Similarly 0.10-mol the thing used as % was used as the positive active material beta, 0.50-mol the thing used as % was used as the positive active material gamma, 0.90-mol the thing used as % was used as the positive active material delta, 1.00-mol the thing used as % was used as the positive active material epsilon, and 2.00-mol the thing used as % was used as the positive active material zeta. The addition of the zirconium (Zr) also compounded the thing used as 0 (additive-free), and made this the positive active material eta. The addition of a zirconium (Zr) is the value produced by ICP (Inductivery Coupled Plasma; plasma emission spectrometry) analyzing. [0014]

2. Measurement of weighted solidity of positive active material

When obtained positive-active-material alpha-eta was measured by XRD (X-Ray Diffraction), it became clear that it is cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO₂) of a hexagonal system. If it asks for a crystallite diameter (110) (crystallite diameter of vector directions) using Scherrer's formula, The positive active material alpha (Zr:0.01-mol%) is 1001A, and the positive active material beta (Zr:0.10-mol%) is 985A, The positive active material gamma (Zr:0.50-mol%) is 978A, and the positive active material delta (Zr:0.90-mol%) is 952A, The positive active material epsilon (Zr:1.00-mol%) was 947A, the positive active material zeta

(Zr:2.00-mol%) was 932A, and the positive active material eta (additive-free) was 1015A.
[0015]
Subsequently, it prepared 2g of obtained positive-active-material alpha-eta at a time, respectively, and added in the beaker whose capacity with which each of such positive active material was filled up into 150 ml of ion exchange water, respectively is 200 ml. Then, after putting the stirring bar in the beaker

added in the beaker whose capacity with which each of such positive active material was filled up into 150 ml of ion exchange water, respectively is 200 ml. Then, after putting the stirring bar in the beaker and carrying out the seal of the beaker with a thin film, it agitated for 30 minutes. Subsequently, after carrying out suction filtration of each agitated solution with a membrane filter (that whose aperture is 0.1 micrometer in the product made from PTFE), As a result of measuring filtrate with the pH meter provided with the ISFET (Ion-Selective Fieldeffect Transistor: field effect transistor in which gate electrode has susceptibility to ion of a certain kind in electrolysis solution) electrode, the result as shown in the following table 1 was obtained.

[0016] [Table 1]

質の	Z r の 添加量 (mo1%)	結 晶 子 サ イ ズ (Å)	рΗ
α	0.01	1001	10.3
β	0.10	985	10.3
γ	0.50	978	10.4
δ	0.90	952	10.4
٤	1.00	947	10.5
ζ	2.00	932	10.7
η	無添加	1015	10.3

[0017]

The addition of a zirconium follows on increasing and a crystallite diameter decreases so that clearly from the result of the above-mentioned table 1, but it turns out that a pH value increases conversely. [0018]

3. Production of anode

Subsequently, using each positive-active-material alpha-eta produced as mentioned above, by ten mass parts, each of such positive active material was mixed so that the polyvinylidene fluoride (PVdF) powder as a binder might serve as five mass parts, and the carbon powder end as a conducting agent produced positive electrode mixture by 85 mass parts. Subsequently, after mixing the obtained positive electrode mixture with N-methyl pyrrolidone (NMP) and considering it as an anode slurry, This anode slurry was applied to 20-micrometer-thick both sides of a positive pole collector (aluminium foil or aluminum alloy foil) with the doctor blade method, and the active material layer was formed in both sides of a positive pole collector. After drying this, it rolled until it became predetermined thickness (for example, 170 micrometers) using the compression roll, and it cut to the prescribed dimension (at 55 mm, the length of width is 500 mm), and the anode a, b, and c, d, e, f, and g were produced, respectively.

[0019]

The thing using the positive active material alpha (Zr:0.01-mol%) is used as the anode a, The thing using the positive active material beta (Zr:0.10-mol%) is used as the anode b, The thing using the positive active material gamma (Zr:0.50-mol%) is used as the anode c, The thing using the positive active material delta (Zr:0.90-mol%) was used as the anode d, the thing using the positive active material epsilon (Zr:1.00-mol%) was used as the anode e, the thing using the positive active material zeta (Zr:2.00-mol%) was used as the anode f, and the thing using the positive active material eta (Zr: additive-free) was used as the anode g. [0020]

4. Production of negative electrode

On the other hand, by 95 mass parts, after the end of natural graphite powder was mixed so that the polyvinylidene fluoride (PVdF) powder as a binder might serve as five mass parts, it mixed this with N-methyl pyrrolidone (NMP), and considered it as the negative-electrode slurry. Then, the obtained negative-electrode slurry was applied to one side of an 18-micrometer-thick negative pole collector

(copper foil) with the doctor blade method, and the active material layer was formed in one side of a negative pole collector. After drying this, it rolled until it became predetermined thickness (for example, 155 micrometers) using the compression roll, and it cut to the prescribed dimension (at 57 mm, the length of width is 550 mm), and the negative electrode was produced.

[0021]

5. Production of nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery

Subsequently, after making the separator which consists of fine porous membrane made from polypropylene among these intervene using respectively each anode a, b, and c produced as mentioned above, d, e, f, g, and the negative electrode produced as mentioned above and laminating, these were wound spirally, respectively and it was considered as the spiral electrode group. After inserting these in respectively cylindrical metal armor cans, the collecting tab which extends from each charge collector was welded to each terminal, and the nonaqueous electrolyte which dissolved 1 mol/l. of LiPF₆ in the constant volume mixed solvent of ethylene carbonate (EC) and diethyl carbonate (DEC) was poured in. [0022]

Then, the anode lid was attached and obturated to the opening of the armor can, and rated capacity produced the nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery of 1500mAh (at 65 mm, the diameter of height is 18 mm), respectively. The thing using the anode a was used as the cell A, the thing using the anode b was used as the cell B, the thing using the anode c was used as the cell C, the thing using the anode d was used as the cell D, the thing using the anode e was cell E Carried out, the thing using the anode f was used as the cell F, and the thing using the anode g was used as the cell G. [0023]

- 6. Measurement of battery characteristic
- (1) Initial capacity

It is 1500 mA (numerical value as which 1 It:It is expressed in rated capacity (mA) / 1h (time)) charging current in 25 ** temperature environment using each of these cell A-G, Constant potential charge was carried out after carrying out constant current charge until cell voltage was set to 4.2V until end current was set to 30 mA with the constant voltage whose cell voltage is 4.2V. Then, when the charge and discharge of making it discharge until cell voltage is set to 2.75V by 1500 mA (1It) discharge current were performed only once and the service capacity (initial capacity) of 1 cycle eye was calculated from the charging time value, a result as shown in the following table 2 was brought. [0024]

(2) The capacity maintenance rate in 25 **

Subsequently, constant potential charge was carried out after carrying out constant current charge using each of these cell A-G until cell voltage was set to 4.2V according to 1500 mA (1It) charging current by 25 ** temperature environment until end current was set to 30 mA with the constant voltage whose cell voltage is 4.2V. Then, it was made to discharge until cell voltage was set to 2.75V by 1500 mA (1It) discharge current, and this was made into the charge and discharge of 1 cycle eye. Subsequently, when asked for the ratio (%) of the service capacity of a 300 cycle eye [as opposed to the service capacity of 300 cycle repetition ****** and 1 cycle eye for such charge and discharge] as a capacity maintenance rate (%) in 25 **, a result as shown in the following table 2 was brought.

[0025]

(3) The capacity maintenance rate in 60 **

Constant potential charge was carried out after similarly carrying out constant current charge using each of these cell A-G until cell voltage was set to 4.2V according to 1500 mA (1It) charging current by 60 ** temperature environment until end current was set to 30 mA with the constant voltage whose cell voltage is 4.2V. Then, it was made to discharge until cell voltage was set to 2.75V by 1500 mA (1It) discharge current, and this was made into the charge and discharge of 1 cycle eye. Subsequently, when asked for the ratio (%) of the service capacity of a 300 cycle eye [as opposed to the service capacity of 300 cycle repetition ****** and 1 cycle eye for such charge and discharge] as a capacity maintenance rate (%) in 60 **, a result as shown in the following table 2 was brought.

(4) thermometric analysis (measurement of DSC exothermic starting temperature) of a charge anode Subsequently, using each of these cells A-G, constant current charge was carried out until cell voltage was set to 4.2V according to the charging current of 100microA by 25 ** temperature environment. Then, each of these cells were disassembled all over the dry box, the anode was taken out, vacuum drying was washed and carried out by dimethyl carbonate, and the specimen was obtained. After adding

10 mg of ethylene carbonate to 40 mg of these specimens, it obturated in the cell made from aluminum under argon atmosphere. Subsequently, these cells are put into a differential scanning calorimeter (DSC), the heating rate carried out temperature up by 5 ** / min, and when the temperature (DSC exothermic starting temperature) to which each test piece starts self-generation of heat was measured, a result as shown in the following table 2 was brought.

[0027] [Table 2]

電池	正極活物質の特性値 DSC 発熱開			初期容量	25℃ 容量維	60℃ 容量維	
種類	Z r 添加 量(mol%)	結晶子サ イズ(A)	p H 値	光烈府 始温度 (℃)	(mAh)	持率 (%)	存 基 持 率 (%)
Α	0. 01	1001	10.3	1 7 8	1650	8 9	7 4
В	0.10	985	10.3	176	1648	9 1	7 6
С	0.50	978	10.4	175	1630	9 2	7 7
D	0.90	952	10.4	173	1610	9 4	7 6
Е	1.00	947	10.5	1 7 0	1590	9 4	7 3
F	2. 00	932	10.7	167	1550	9 4	7 3
G	なし	1015	10.3	1 7 8	1650	8 5	70

[0028]

It turns out that the capacity maintenance rate of cell [addition / of a zirconium (Zr)] A-D using anode a-d beyond 0.01mol% in 25 ** and 60 ** is improving not less than 4% from the cell G by which the zirconium (Zr) used the additive-free anode g so that clearly from the result of the above-mentioned table 2. However, the cells [addition / of a zirconium (Zr)] E and F using the anodes e and f beyond 1.00mol%. While the capacity maintenance rate in 25 ** improves from the cell [zirconium / (Zr)] G using the additive-free anode g and initial capacity falls not less than 3%, it turns out that a pH value rises by superfluous addition and the capacity maintenance rate in 60 ** comes to fall. From this, it can be said that it is desirable to use less than 0.09mol% at more than 0.01mol% as for the addition of a zirconium (Zr).

[0029]

7. Homogeneous addition of zirconium

In the example mentioned above, in order to decrease the addition of a zirconium, the example using the positive active material which added the zirconium homogeneously on the surface of positive active material (LiCoO_2) was explained. Namely, after making a zirconium (Zr) coprecipitate at the time of cobalt carbonate (CoCO_3) composition, The tricobalt tetroxide (Co_3O_4) of zirconium addition is obtained for this by a thermal decomposition reaction, The example which adds and calcinates lithium carbonate (Li_2CO_3) to this, and is used as the baking body of cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO_2) of zirconium addition was explained.

[0030]

Here, when the zirconium was homogeneously added on the surface of positive active material (LiCoO₂),

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it was examined below whether it would become possible to decrease how many additions of a zirconium as compared with the case where a zirconium is added heterogeneously. For this reason, while preparing lithium carbonate (Li_2CO_3) as a starting material of a lithium source, After carrying out weighing and mixing so that the mole ratio of lithium and cobalt may be set to 1:1 in these, after preparing a tricobalt tetroxide (Co_3O_4) as a starting material of the source of cobalt, zirconium oxide (ZrO_2) was further added as a zirconium source, and it mixed. Subsequently, the obtained mixture was calcinated at 850 ** in the air for 20 hours, and the zirconium compounded the baking body of the cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO_2) added heterogeneously.

[0031]

Positive active material compounded so that the addition (an addition is the value produced by ICP analyzing in addition) of a zirconium (Zr) might be 1.00-mol% was used as the positive active material theta, and 5.00-mol the thing used as % was used as the positive active material iota. Subsequently, when the obtained positive active material theta and iota was measured by XRD, it became clear that it is cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO₂) of a hexagonal system. When asked for the crystallite diameter (110) (crystallite diameter of vector directions) using Scherrer's formula, the positive active material theta (Zr:1.00-mol%) was 997A, and the positive active material iota (Zr:5.00-mol%) was 990A. [0032]

Subsequently, when pH of the obtained positive active material theta and iota was measured like ****, the result as shown in the following table 3 was obtained. The anodes h and i were produced like **** using each positive active material theta and iota produced as mentioned above, respectively. The thing using the positive active material theta was used as the anode h, and the thing using the positive active material iota was used as the anode i. Subsequently, the nonaqueous electrolyte secondary batteries H and I were produced like **** using each anodes h and i produced as mentioned above, respectively. The thing using the anode h was used as the cell H, and the thing using the anode i was used as the cell I. [0033]

When initial capacity, (%) and the capacity maintenance rate in 25 **, and the capacity maintenance rate (%) in 60 ** were searched for by the same method as **** using each of these cells H and I, respectively, a result as shown in the following table 3 was brought. The result of the cell A, C, and D mentioned above is also collectively shown in the following table 3.

[0034]

[Table 3]

電池	正極	活物質の特	初期容量	25℃ 容量維	60℃ 容量維	
種類	Z r 添加量(mo1%)	結晶子サ イズ(A)	pH値	(m A h)	存 基 持率 (%)	存 基 持 率 (%)
A	0. 01	1001	10.3	1650	8 9	7 4
С	0.50	978	10.4	1630	9 2	7 7
D	0.90	952	10.4	1610	9 4	7 6
H.	1. 00	997	10.8	1592	8 6	7 1
I	5. 00	990	11.0	1410	9 1	7 2

[0035]

clear from the result of the above-mentioned table 3 -- as -- the surface -- homogeneous -- a http://www4.ipdl.inpit.go.jp/cgi-bin/tran_web_cgi_ejje?atw_u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww4.ipdl.inpit.... 2008/08/25

zirconium — 0.50-mol% — with the cell C using the added positive active material (LiCoO $_2$). a zirconium — heterogeneous — 5.00-mol% — when the cell I using the added positive active material (LiCoO $_2$) is compared, it turns out that the capacity maintenance rate of the direction of the cell C in 25 ** and 60 ** is improving. the surface — homogeneous — a zirconium — 0.01-mol% — with the cell A using the added positive active material (LiCoO $_2$). a zirconium — heterogeneous — 1.00-mol% — when the cell H using the added positive active material (LiCoO $_2$) is compared, it turns out that the capacity maintenance rate of the direction of the cell A in 25 ** and 60 ** is improving. When a zirconium is homogeneously added on the surface from these things, it turns out that effective addition is attained in a small quantity.

[0036]

8. Examination about other alloying elements

In the example mentioned above, although the example which adds a zirconium (Zr) as a different species element to cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO₂) was examined, the case where titanium (Ti) was added as other different species elements was examined here. Then, after adding titanium sulfate (TiSO₄) of the specified quantity in a cobalt sulfate (CoSO₄) solution, titanium (Ti) was made to coprecipitate by adding sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO₃) at the time of cobalt carbonate (CoCO₃) composition. Then, the tricobalt tetroxide (Co₃O₄) of the titanium addition as a starting material of the source of cobalt was obtained for these by the thermal decomposition reaction. Subsequently, after preparing lithium carbonate (Li₂CO₃) as a starting material of a lithium source, weighing was carried out so that the mole ratio of lithium and cobalt might be set to 1:1. Subsequently, after mixing these with a mortar, the obtained mixture was calcinated at 850 ** in the air for 20 hours, and the baking body of cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO₂) of titanium addition was compounded. Then, the compound baking body was ground until mean particle diameter was set to 10 micrometers, and it was considered as positive active material. [0037]

Here, positive active material compounded so that the addition (an addition is the value produced by ICP analyzing in addition) of titanium (Ti) might be 0.50-mol% was used as the positive active material kappa, and 0.90-mol the thing used as % was used as the positive active material lambda. Subsequently, when the obtained positive active material kappa and lambda was measured by XRD, it became clear that it is cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO₂) of a hexagonal system. When asked for the crystallite diameter (110)

(crystallite diameter of vector directions) using Scherrer's formula, the positive active material kappa (Ti:0.50-mol%) was 925A, and the positive active material lambda (Zr:0.90-mol%) was 890A. [0038]

Subsequently, when pH of the obtained positive active material kappa and lambda was measured like ****, the result as shown in the following table 4 was obtained. The anodes j and k were produced like **** using each positive active material kappa and lambda produced as mentioned above, respectively. The thing using the positive active material kappa was used as the anode j, and the thing using the positive active material lambda was used as the anode k. Subsequently, the nonaqueous electrolyte secondary batteries J and K were produced like **** using each anodes j and k produced as mentioned above, respectively. The thing using the anode j was used as the cell J, and the thing using the anode k was used as the cell K.

[0039]

When it asked for (%), the capacity maintenance rate, the capacity maintenance rate (%) in 60 **, and DSC exothermic starting temperature in 25 ** by the same method as **** using each of these cells J and K, respectively, a result as shown in the following table 4 was brought. The result of the cells C and D mentioned above is also collectively shown in the following table 4.

[0040]

[Table 4]

種類	添加元素	添加量(モル%)	結 晶 子 サ イ ズ (A)	р Н	DSC発熱 開始温 度(℃)	25℃ 容量維 持 率 (%)	60℃ 容量維 持 率 (%)
С	Z r	0.50	978	10.4	175	9 2	7 7
D	Z r	0.90	952	10.4	173	9 4	7 6
Ј	Тi	0.50	925	10.5	165	9 2	7 5
К	Тi	0.90	890	10.6	162	9 3	7 5

[0041]

When it replaces with a zirconium (Zr) and titanium (Ti) is added so that clearly from the result of the above-mentioned table 4, it turns out that a pH value rises while a crystallite diameter becomes small, even if it is the same addition, and DSC exothermic starting temperature is falling by not less than 10 **. This shows that it is more effective for cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO₂) to add a zirconium (Zr) rather than adding titanium (Ti) as a different species element. If it puts in another way and a zirconium will be homogeneously added on the surface of cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO₂), it is possible to raise a 25 ** (ordinary temperature) capacity maintenance rate and a 60 ** (elevated temperature) capacity maintenance rate, with thermal stability (have held high crystallinity) held. [0042]

9. Examination about crystallite diameter

Subsequently, the size of the crystallite diameter of the cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO₂) which added the zirconium (Zr) homogeneously on the surface was examined. Then, calcination temperature is changed when compounding the positive active material alpha (Zr:0.01-mol%), The crystallite diameter produced the positive active material alpha 1 (851A) different, respectively, alpha 2 (899A), alpha 3 (952A), alpha 4 (997A), alpha 5 (1048A), alpha 6 (1100A), alpha 7 (1152A), and alpha 8 (1200A).

Calcination temperature is changed when compounding the positive active material delta (Zr:0.90-mol%), The crystallite diameter produced the positive active material delta 1 (854A) different, respectively, delta 2 (902A), delta 3 (950A), delta 4 (997A), delta 5 (1050A), delta 6 (1101A), delta 7 (1153A), and delta 8 (1201A). Similarly, calcination temperature is changed when compounding the positive active material eta (additive-free), The crystallite diameter produced the positive active material eta 1 (848A) different, respectively, eta 2 (896A), eta 3 (950A), eta 4 (998A), eta 5 (1048A), eta 6 (1101A), eta 7 (1150A), and eta 8 (1200A).

[0044]

Subsequently, the anodes a1-a8, d1-d8, g1 - g8 were produced like **** using each positive active material alpha1-alpha8 produced as mentioned above, delta1-delta8, and eta1-eta8, respectively. The thing using the positive active material alpha1-alpha8 was used as the anodes a1-a8, the thing using the positive active material delta1-delta8 was used as the anodes d1-d8, and the thing using the positive active material eta1-eta8 was used as the anodes g1-g8. Subsequently, the nonaqueous electrolyte secondary batteries A1-A8, D1-D8, G1 - G8 were produced like **** using each anodes a1-a8 produced as mentioned above, d1-d8, g1 - g8, respectively. The thing using the anodes a1-a8 was used as the cells A1-A8, the thing using the anodes d1-d8 was used as the cells D1-D8, and the thing using the anodes g1-g8 was used as the cells G1-G8.

The capacity maintenance rate (%) in 25 ** was searched for by the same method as **** using each of these cells A1-A8, D1-D8, G1 - G8. Then, when the crystallite diameter of the positive active material alpha1-alpha8 (O seal of drawing 1), delta1-delta8 (** seal of drawing 1), eta 1 - eta8 (** seal of drawing 1) was expressed with the horizontal axis, the vertical axis was set as the capacity maintenance rate (%) in 25 ** and it was expressed with the graph, the result as shown in drawing 1 was obtained.

The addition of a zirconium is fixed to 0.90-mol% 0.01-mol% so that clearly from the result of the graph shown in drawing 1, If a crystallite diameter uses cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO₂) over 1100 A when changing calcination temperature and changing the crystallite diameter (A) of positive active material (LiCoO2 by which Zr was homogeneously added by the surface), The positive active material eta 1 (848A) additivefree in a zirconium, eta 2 (896A), the cell G1 using eta 3 (950A), G2, and G3 show that the cycle capacity maintenance rate in 25 ** is less. It turns out that it is desirable to use the cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO₂) prepared so that a crystallite diameter might be 1100A or less, when the addition of a zirconium was fixed [this] to 0.01-mol% or 0.90-mol%. [0047]

On the other hand, DSC exothermic starting temperature was measured by the same method as **** using each of these cells A1-A8, D1-D8, G1 - G8. Then, when the crystallite diameter of the positive seal of drawing 2) was expressed with the horizontal axis and it expressed with the graph by setting a

active material alpha1-alpha8 (O seal of drawing 2), delta1-delta8 (** seal of drawing 2), eta 1 - eta8 (** vertical axis as DSC exothermic starting temperature (**), the result as shown in drawing 2 was obtained. [0048]

While DSC exothermic starting temperature will fall if a crystallite diameter falls so that clearly from the result of the graph shown in drawing 2, When a crystallite diameter comes to be less than 900 A, the cell G1 using the positive active material eta 1 (848A) additive-free in a zirconium shows that DSC exothermic starting temperature falls. It turns out that it is desirable to use the cobalt acid lithium (LiCoO₂) prepared so that a crystallite diameter might be not less than 900A, when the addition of a zirconium was fixed [this] to 0.01-mol% or 0.90-mol%. [0049]

In order to acquire good cycle performance and thermal stability from these things (110), the crystallite diameter of vector directions needs to choose and use a lithium content cobalt multiple oxide (not less than 900A and 1100A or less). Thereby, improvement in cycle performance can be attained by addition (it is less than 0.90mol% in more than 0.01mol%) of a small quantity of a zirconium, without being accompanied by capacity lowering or safety fall.

[0050]

[Effect of the Invention]

As mentioned above, in this invention, a zirconium is more than 0.1 mol by coprecipitation at the time of composition of the cobalt compound (for example, cobalt carbonate, cobalt hydroxide) as a source of cobalt, less than 0.9mol% -- he is trying to use the lithium content cobalt multiple oxide of the added hexagonal system as positive active material As a result, improvement in cycle performance can be attained by addition of a small quantity of a zirconium, without being accompanied by capacity lowering or safety fall.

[0051]

Although the example using the lithium content cobalt oxide of a hexagonal system in which the zirconium was homogeneously added by the surface as positive active material was explained in the embodiment mentioned above, It may be made to use the lithium content cobalt oxide which replaced some cobalt of the lithium content cobalt oxide of a hexagonal system with vanadium (V), chromium (Cr), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), nickel (nickel), aluminum (aluminum), etc.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is a graph which shows the crystallite diameter of cobalt acid lithium, and the relation of the cycle capacity maintenance rate in 25 **.

[Drawing 2]It is a graph which shows the crystallite diameter of cobalt acid lithium, and the relation of DSC exothermic starting temperature.

[Translation done.]

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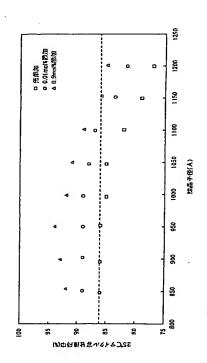
(54) 【発明の名称】非水電解質二次電池およびその製造方法

(57)【要約】

【課題】ジルコニウムが1mol%未満と少量の添加量であっても、負荷性能およびサイクル性能が向上した非水電解質二次電池を提供する。

【解決手段】本発明の非水電解質二次電池は、コバルト源となるコバルト化合物(例えば、炭酸コバルト、水酸化コバルト)の合成時の共沈によりジルコニウム0.01mol%以上、0.9mol%以下添加された六方晶系のリチウム含有コバルト複合酸化物を正極活物質として用いるようにしている。このため、リチウム含有コバルト複合酸化物の焼成時にジルコニウムを添加する場合に比べて、少量でリチウム含有コバルト複合酸化物の表面に均質にジルコニウムが添加されるようになる。この場合、正極活物質の(110)ベクトル方向の結晶子径が900Å以上、1100Å以下であるのが望ましい。これにより、容量低下や安全性低下を伴うことなく、サイクル性能の向上を達成できるようになった。

【選択図】 図1



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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】

リチウムイオンの吸蔵・放出が可能な正極活物質と、リチウムイオンの吸蔵・放出が可能な負極活物質と、非水系電解質とを備えた非水電解質二次電池であって、

前記正極活物質はコバルト源としてのコバルト化合物の合成時に共沈によりジルコニウムが O. Olモル%以上、 O. 9モル%以下添加された六方晶系のリチウム含有コバルト複合酸化物であることを特徴とする非水電解質二次電池。

【請求項2】

前記正極活物質は(1 1 0) ベクトル方向の結晶子径が 9 0 0 Å以上、 1 1 0 0 Å以下で、かつ、前記ジルコニウムが前記リチウム含有コバルト複合酸化物の表面に均一に分散していることを特徴とする請求項 1 に記載の非水電解質二次電池。

【請求項3】

リチウムイオンの吸蔵・放出が可能な正極活物質と、リチウムイオンの吸蔵・放出が可能な負極活物質と、非水系電解質とを備えた非水電解質二次電池の製造方法であって、コバルト源となるコバルト化合物を熱分解生成するための初期コバルト化合物にジルコニウムを正極活物質として 0.01モル%以上、 0.9モル%以下添加されるように共沈させる共沈工程と、

前記ジルコニウムが共沈されたコバルト化合物からなる第 1 成分と、リチウム源となるリチウム化合物からなる第 2 成分とを混合して混合物とする混合工程と、

前記混合物を焼成する焼成工程とを備えたことを特徴とする非水電解質二次電池の製造方法。

【請求項4】

前記焼成工程において、前記混合物を(110)ベクトル方向の結晶子径が900Å以上、1100Å以下になるように焼成することを特徴とする請求項3に記載の非水電解質二次電池の製造方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】

本発明はリチウムイオンの吸蔵・放出が可能な正極活物質と、リチウムイオンの吸蔵・放出が可能な負極活物質と、非水系電解質とを備えた非水電解質二次電池およびその製造方法に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】

近年、小型ビデオカメラ、携帯電話、ノートパソコン等の携帯用電子・通信機器等に用いられる電池として、リチウムイオンを吸蔵・放出できる合金もしくは炭素材料などを負極活物質とし、コバルト酸リチウム(LiCoO₂)、ニッケル酸リチウム(LiNiO₂)、マンガン酸リチウム(LiMn₂О₄)等のリチウム含有遷移金属酸化物を正極活物質とする非水電解質二次電池が、小型軽量でかつ高容量で充放電可能な電池として実用化されるようになった。

[0003]

上述した非水電解質二次電池の正極活物質に用いられるリチウム含有遷移金属酸化物のうち、ニッケル酸リチウム($LiNiO_2$)にあっては、高容量であるという特徴を有する反面、安全性に劣りかつ過電圧が大きいという欠点を有することからコバルト酸リチウムよりも劣っていた。また、マンガン酸リチウム($LiMn_2O_4$)にあっては、資源が豊富で安価であるという特徴を有する反面、低エネルギー密度で高温でマンガン自体が溶解するという欠点を有することからコバルト酸リチウムよりも劣っていた。このため、現在においては、リチウム含有遷移金属酸化物としてコバルト酸リチウム($LiCoO_2$)を用いることが主流となっている。

[0004]

ところで、コバルト酸リチウム (LiCoO,) はリチウムに対して4V以上の電位に曝

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されるため、これを非水電解質二次電池の正極活物質に用いると、充放電サイクルを繰り返す毎に正極からコバルトが溶出するようになる。このため、正極が劣化して、サイクル後の容量特性、負荷特性が低下するといった問題を生じた。そこで、リチウム源とコバルト源を焼成してコバルト酸リチウムを合成する際に、ジルコニウムを1~10mol%添加して、負荷性能、サイクル性能を向上させた非水電解質二次電池が特許文献1(特開平4-319260号公報)にて提案されるようになった。

【特許文献1】

特開平4-319260号公報

[0005]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

しかしながら、ジルコニウムは電池反応(充放電反応)に寄与しないため、ジルコニウムの添加量が増大するに伴って電池容量が低下するという問題を生じた。例えば、コバルト酸リチウムに添加するジルコニウムの添加量が1mol%であれば、無添加時に比べて容量が3%低下することが明らかになった。

そこで、本発明においては、電池容量を低下させないような少量(1mol%未満)のジルコニウムの添加量であっても、負荷性能およびサイクル性能が向上した非水電解質二次電池を提供することを目的とするものである。

[0006]

【課題を解決するための手段】

上記目的を達成するため、本発明の非水電解質二次電池は、コバルト源としてのコバルト化合物(例えば、炭酸コバルト、水酸化コバルト)の合成時に共沈によりジルコニウムが0.1 mol%以上で、0.9 mol%以下添加された六方晶系のリチウム含有コバルト複合酸化物を正極活物質として用いるようにしている。ここで、炭酸コバルト、水酸化コバルトなどのコバルト化合物の合成時に共沈によりジルコニウムが添加されていると、リチウム含有コバルト複合酸化物の焼成時にジルコニウムを添加する場合に比べて、少量でリチウム含有コバルト複合酸化物の表面に均質にジルコニウムが添加されるようになる。【0007】

上述のようにジルコニウムを共沈により均質に添加すると、例えば、 0 . 5 m o 1 %の添加量であっても、焼成時の不均質な 5 . 0 m o 1 %の添加量となる添加に相当するサイクル性能改善効果が得られることが明らかになった。そして、 0 . 0 1 m o 1 %の添加量であっても、焼成時の不均質な 1 . 0 m o 1 %の添加量に相当するので、ジルコニウムの添加量の下限値は 0 . 0 1 m o 1 %にするのが望ましい。また、ジルコニウムの添加量が 1 . 0 m o 1 %では 3 %以上の容量低下があるため、ジルコニウムの添加量は 0 . 0 1 m o 1 %以上で、 0 . 9 m o 1 %以下であるのが望ましい。この結果、ジルコニウムの少量の添加で、サイクル性能の向上を達成できるようになる。

[0008]

この場合、リチウム含有コバルト複合酸化物の(110)ベクトル方向の結晶子径が900Å以下であると、充電状態での熱安定性が低下することが明らかになった。また、リチウム含有コバルト複合酸化物の(110)ベクトル方向の結晶子径が1100Å以上になると、連続充電時の安全性が低下するとともに、サイクル性能が低下することが明らかになった。これらのことから、良好なサイクル性能、熱安定性を得るためには(110)ベクトル方向の結晶子径が900Å以上、1100Å以下のリチウム含有コバルト複合酸化物を選択して用いることが望ましい。

[0009]

そして、上記のような正極活物質を得るためには、コバルト源となるコバルト化合物を熱分解生成するための初期コバルト化合物にジルコニウムを正極活物質として 0.01 mol %以上、0.9 mol %以下添加されるように共沈させる共沈工程と、ジルコニウムが共沈されたコバルト化合物からなる第1成分と、リチウム源となるリチウム化合物からなる第2成分とを混合して混合物とする混合工程と、混合物を焼成する焼成工程とを備えるようにすればよい。この場合、焼成工程においては、正極活物質が(110)ベクトル方

向の結晶子径が900Å以上、1100Å以下になるように焼成する工程であることが望ましい。

[0010]

なお、本発明においては、熱的安定性に優れて高い安全性を示すとともに、高温時のサイクル特性が向上し、充電保存時の劣化を抑制した非水電解質二次電池を提供するために、特定の正極活物質を用いた点にその特徴が有る。したがって、負極材料、セパレータ材料、非水電解質材料、結着剤材料などについては、従来より公知の材料を用いることができる。

[0011]

【発明の実施の形態】

ついで、本発明の実施の形態を以下に説明するが、本発明はこの実施の形態に何ら限定されるものでなく、本発明の目的を変更しない範囲で適宜変更して実施することが可能である。

[0012]

1. 正極活物質の作製

まず、硫酸コバルト($CoSO_4$)溶液に所定量の硫酸ジルコニウム($ZrSO_4$)を添加した後、炭酸水素ナトリウム($NaHCO_3$)を加えることによって、炭酸コバルト($CoCO_3$)合成時にジルコニウム(Zr)を共沈させた。この後、これらを熱分解反応により、コバルト源の出発原料としてのジルコニウム添加の四酸化三コバルト(Co_3O_4)を得た。ついで、リチウム源の出発原料として炭酸リチウム(Li_2CO_3)を用意した後、リチウムとコバルトのモル比が 1:1 になるように秤量した。ついで、これらを乳鉢で混合した後、得られた混合物を空気中で 850 で 20 時間焼成して、ジルコニウムが表面に添加されたコバルト酸リチウム($LiCoO_2$)の焼成体を合成した。この後、合成した焼成体を平均粒径が 10μ mになるまで粉砕して正極活物質とした。

[0013]

ここで、ジルコニウム(Zr)の添加量が0. 01 mol%となるように合成された正極活物質を正極活物質 α とした。同様に、0. 10 mol%となるものを正極活物質 β とし、0. 50 mol%となるものを正極活物質 γ とし、0. 90 mol%となるものを正極活物質 δ とし、 δ 0 mol%となるものを正極活物質 δ 2 とし、 δ 0 mol%となるものを正極活物質 δ 2 とし、 δ 0 mol%となるものを正極活物質 δ 2 とした。また、ジルコニウム(δ 2 r)の添加量が δ 3 のも合成し、これを正極活物質 δ 4 とした。なお、ジルコニウム(δ 5 r)の添加量は δ 6 により分析して得られた値である。

[0014]

2. 正極活物質の特性値の測定

[0015]

ついで、得られた正極活物質 $\alpha \sim \eta$ をそれぞれ 2 g づつ用意し、これらの各正極活物質をそれぞれ 1 5 0 m 1 のイオン交換水が充填された容積が 2 0 0 m 1 のビーカー内に加えた。この後、ビーカー中に撹拌子を入れ、薄いフィルムでビーカーをシールした後、 3 0 分間撹拌した。ついで、撹拌した各溶液をメンプレンフィルター(P T F E 製で孔径が O . 1 μ m のもの)にて吸引濾過した後、濾液を 1 S F E T (Ion-Selective Fieldeffect Tr ansistor: ゲート電極が電解液中のある種のイオンに対して感受性を持つ電界効果トラン 50

ジスタ)電極を備えたpHメータにて測定した結果、下記の表 1 に示すような結果が得られた。

[0016]

【表1】

1 .	Z r の 添加量 (mol%)	結 晶 子 サ イ ズ (A)	рΗ
α	0.01	1001	10.3
β	0.10	985	10.3
γ	0.50	978	10.4
δ	0.90	952	10.4
£	1.00	947	10.5
ζ	2.00	932	10.7
η	無添加	1015	10.3

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[0017]

上記表 1 の結果から明らかなように、ジルコニウムの添加量が増大するに伴って、結晶子径が減少するが、逆に p H 値が増大することが分かる。

[0018]

3. 正極の作製

ついで、上述のように作製された各正極活物質 $\alpha \sim \eta$ を用いて、これらの各正極活物質が85質量部で、導電剤としての炭素粉末が10質量部で、結着剤としてのポリフッ化ビニリデン(PVdF)粉末が5質量部となるように混合して、正極合剤を作製した。ついで、得られた正極合剤をN-メチルピロリドン(NMP)と混合して正極スラリーとした後、この正極スラリーを厚みが20 μ mの正極集電体(アルミニウム箔あるいはアルミニウム合金箔)の両面にドクターブレード法により塗布して、正極集電体の両面に活物質層を形成した。これを乾燥させた後、圧縮ロールを用いて所定の厚み(例えば170 μ m)になるまで圧延し、所定寸法(例えば幅が55 μ mで、長さが500 μ m)に切断して、正極a、b、c、d、e、f、gをそれぞれ作製した。

[0019]

なお、正極活物質 α (Z r : O. O 1 m o 1 %)を用いたものを正極 a とし、正極活物質 β (Z r : O. 1 O m o 1 %)を用いたものを正極 b とし、正極活物質 γ (Z r : O. 5 O m o 1 %)を用いたものを正極 c とし、正極活物質 δ (Z r : O. 9 O m o 1 %)を用いたものを正極 d とし、正極活物質 δ (δ r : δ r : δ r : δ l : δ c :

[0020]

4. 負極の作製 ...

[0021]

5. 非水電解質二次電池の作製

ついで、上述のように作製した各正極 a , b , c , d , e , f , g と、上述のようにして作製した負極とをそれぞれ用い、これらの間にポリプロピレン製微多孔膜からなるセパレータを介在させて積層した後、これらを渦巻状にそれぞれ巻回して渦巻状電極群とした。これらをそれぞれ円筒状の金属製外装缶に挿入した後、各集電体から延出する集電タブを各端子に溶接し、エチレンカーボネート(EC)とジエチルカーボネート(DEC)との等体積混合溶媒に、LiPF6を1モル/リットル溶解した非水電解液を注入した。

[0022]

この後、外装缶の開口部に正極蓋を取り付けて封口して、定格容量が1500mAh(高さが65mmで、直径が18mm)の非水電解質二次電池をそれぞれ作製した。なお、正極 a を用いたものを電池Aとし、正極 b を用いたものを電池Bとし、正極 c を用いたものを電池Cとし、正極 d を用いたものを電池Dとし、正極 e を用いたものを電池Eし、正極 f を用いたものを電池Fとし、正極 g を用いたものを電池Gとした。

[0023]

6. 電池特性の測定

(1)初期容量

これらの各電池 $A \sim G$ を用いて、 25 C の温度環境で、 1500 m A (11 t : 1 t は定格容量(m A) / 1 h (時間)で表される数値)の充電電流で、電池電圧が 4 . 2 V になるまで定電流充電した後、電池電圧が 4 . 2 V の定電圧で終止電流が 30 m A になるまで定電圧充電した。この後、 1500 m A (11 t) の放電電流で電池電圧が 2 . 75 V になるまで放電させるという充放電を 1 回だけ行って、放電時間から 1 サイクル目の放電容量(初期容量)を求めると、下記の表 2 に示すような結果となった。

[0024]

(2) 25℃での容量維持率

ついで、これらの各電池 A ~ G を用いて、 25 $^\circ$ の温度環境で、 1500 m A (1It) の充電電流で、電池電圧が 4.2 V になるまで定電流充電した後、電池電圧が 4.2 V の定電圧で終止電流が 30 m A になるまで定電圧充電した。この後、 1500 m A (1It) の放電電流で電池電圧が 2.75 V になるまで放電させ、これを 1 サイクル目の充放電とした。ついで、このような充放電を 300 サイクル繰り返して行い、 1 サイクル目の放電容量に対する 300 サイクル目の放電容量の比率(%)を 25 $^\circ$ での容量維持率(%)として求めると、下記の表 2 に示すような結果となった。

[0025]

(3) 60℃での容量維持率

[0026]

(4) 充電正極の熱分析 (DSC発熱開始温度の測定)

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ついで、これらの各電池 A ~ G を用いて、 25 ℃の温度環境で、 100 μ A の充電電流で、電池電圧が 4.2 V になるまで定電流充電した。この後、これらの各電池をドライボックス中で分解して正極を取り出し、ジメチルカーボネートで洗浄し、真空乾燥して試験片を得た。これらの試験片 40 m g に対してエチレンカーボネートを 10 m g 加えた後、アルゴン雰囲気下でアルミニウム製のセル中に封口した。ついで、これらのセルを示差走査熱量計(DSC)に入れて、昇温速度が 5 ℃/ m inで昇温させて、各試料片が自己発熱を開始する温度(DSC発熱開始温度)を測定すると、下記の表 2 に示すような結果となった。

[0027]

【表2】

電池	正極活物質の特性値			DSC 発熱開	初期容量	期容量 25℃ 容量維	
種類	Z r 添加 量(mol%)	結晶子サ イズ(Å)	p H 値	光烈度 始温度 (℃)	(mAh)	存 基 持 率 (%)	容量維 持 率 (%)
Λ	0.01	1001	10.3	178	1650	8 9	7 4
В	0.10	985	10.3	176	1648	9 1	7 6
С	0.50	978	10.4	1 7 5	1630	9 2	7 7
D	0.90	952	10.4	173	1610	9 4	7 6
E	1.00	947	10.5	170	1590	9 4	7 3
F	2. 00	932	10.7	167	1550	9 4	7 3
G	なし	1015	10.3	178	1650	8 5	7 0

[0028]

上記表 2 の結果から明らかなように、ジルコニウム(Z r)の添加量が 0. 0 1 moll %以上の正極 a a d e d

[0029]

7. ジルコニウムの均質添加について

上述した例においては、ジルコニウムの添加量を減少させるために、正極活物質(LiCoO2)の表面に均質にジルコニウムを添加した正極活物質を用いる例について説明した。即ち、炭酸コバルト(CoCO3)合成時にジルコニウム(Zr)を共沈させた後、これを熱分解反応によりジルコニウム添加の四酸化三コバルト(Co3O4)を得、これに炭酸リチウム(Li2CO3)を添加し、焼成してジルコニウム添加のコバルト酸リチウム(

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LiCoO₂)の焼成体とする例について説明した。

[0030]

ここでは、正極活物質(LiCoO $_2$)の表面に均質にジルコニウムを添加すると、ジルコニウムを不均質に添加した場合と比較してどの程度ジルコニウムの添加量を減少させることが可能になるかを、以下に検討した。このため、リチウム源の出発原料として炭酸リチウム(Li $_2$ СО $_3$)を用意するとともに、コバルト源の出発原料として四酸化三コバルト(Со $_3$ О $_4$)を用意した後、これらをリチウムとコバルトのモル比が1:1になるように秤量して混合した後、さらに、ジルコニウム源として酸化ジルコニウム(ZrО $_2$)を加えて混合した。ついで、得られた混合物を空気中で850℃で20時間焼成して、ジルコニウムが不均質に添加されたコバルト酸リチウム(LiCoО $_2$)の焼成体を合成した

[0031]

[0032]

ついで、得られた正極活物質 θ , ι の ρ Hを上述と同様に測定すると、下記の表3に示すような結果が得られた。上述のように作製された各正極活物質 θ , ι を用いて、上述と同様に正極h, i をそれぞれ作製した。なお、正極活物質 θ を用いたものを正極i とした。ついで、上述のように作製した各正極h, i を用いて、上述と同様に非水電解質二次電池i H, i をそれぞれ作製した。なお、正極i を用いたものを電池i Bとし、。

[0033]

これらの各電池 H, Iを用いて、上述と同様な方法により、初期容量、25℃での容量維持率(%)、60℃での容量維持率(%)をそれぞれ求めると、下記の表3に示すような結果となった。なお、下記の表3には、上述した電池 A, C, Dの結果も併せて示している。

[0034]

【表3】

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電池	正極活物質の特性値			初期容量	25℃ 容量維	60℃ 容量維
種類	Z r 添加 量(mol%)	結晶子サ イズ(A)	pH値	(m A h)	持率 (%)	存 基 持 率 (%)
А	0.01	1001	10.3	1650	8 9	7 4
С	0.50	978	10.4	1630	9 2	7 7
D	0.90	952	10.4	1610	9 4	7 6
Н	1.00	997	10.8	1 5 9 2	8 6	7 1
I	5.00	990	11.0	1410	9 1	7 2

[0035]

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上記表3の結果から明らかなように、表面に均質にジルコニウムを0.50mo1%添加した正極活物質($LiCoO_2$)を用いた電池Cと、ジルコニウムを不均質に5.00mo1%添加した正極活物質($LiCoO_2$)を用いた電池Iとを比較すると、電池Cの方が250元よび600での容量維持率が向上していることが分かる。また、表面に均質にジルコニウムを0.01mo1%添加した正極活物質($LiCoO_2$)を用いた電池Aと、ジルコニウムを不均質に1.00mo1%添加した正極活物質($LiCoO_2$)を用いた電池Aと、ジルコニウムを不均質に1.00mo1%添加した正極活物質($LiCoO_2$)を用いた電池Aと、ジルコニウムを不均質に1.00mo1%添加した正極活物質($LiCoO_2$)を用いた電池Aと、ジルコニウムを不均質に1.00mo1%添加した正極活物質(1.00mo1%)を用いた電池1.00mo1%

[0036]

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8. 他の添加元素についての検討

[0037]

ここで、チタン(Ti)の添加量(なお、添加量はICPにより分析して得られた値である)が 0.50mol%となるように合成された正極活物質を正極活物質 κ とし、 0.90mol%となるものを正極活物質 λ とした。ついで、得られた正極活物質 κ 、 λ を λ R D により測定すると、六方晶系のコバルト酸リチウム(LiCoО $_2$)であることが明らかとなった。また、シェラーの式を用いて結晶子径((110)ベクトル方向の結晶子径)を求めると、正極活物質 κ (Ti: 0.50mol%)は 925Åであり、正極活物質 λ (2r:0.90mol%)は 890Åであった。

[0038]

ついで、得られた正極活物質 κ , λ の ρ H を上述と同様に測定すると、下記の表 4 に示すような結果が得られた。また、上述のように作製された各正極活物質 κ , λ を用いて、上述と同様に正極 j, k をそれぞれ作製した。なお、正極活物質 κ を用いたものを正極 k とした。ついで、上述のように作製した各正極 k を用いて、上述と同様に非水電解質二次電池 k 、k をそれぞれ作製した。なお、正極 k を用いたものを電池 k とした。

これらの各電池 J , K を用いて、上述と同様な方法により、25℃での容量維持率(%)、60℃での容量維持率(%)および D S C 発熱開始温度をそれぞれ求めると、下記の表4に示すような結果となった。なお、下記の表4には、上述した電池 C , D の結果も併せて示している。

[0040]

[0039]

【表 4】

種類	添加元素	添加量 (モル%)	結 晶 子 サ イ ズ (A)	р Н	DSC発熱 開始温 度(℃)	25℃ 容量維 持 率 (%)	60℃ 容量維 持 率 (%)
С	Ζr	0.50	978	10.4	1 7 5	9 2	7 7
D	Ζr	0.90	952	10.4	1 7 3	9 4	7 6
J	Тi	0.50	9 2 5	10.5	165	9 2	7 5
K	Тi	0.90	890	10.6	162	9 3	7 5

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[0041]

上記表 4 の結果から明らかなように、ジルコニウム(Z r)に代えてチタン(T i)を添加した場合、同じ添加量であっても結晶子径が小さくなるとともにp H 値が上昇して、D S C 発熱開始温度が 1 0 \mathbb{C} 以上も低下していることが分かる。このことから、コバルト酸リチウム(L i C o O $_2$)に異種元素としてチタン(T i)を添加するよりもジルコニウム(Z $_r$)を添加した方が効果的であることが分かる。換言すると、コバルト酸リチウム(L i C o O $_2$)の表面に均質にジルコニウムを添加すると、熱安定性を保持したまま(高い結晶性を保持したまま)、Z S C (常温)容量維持率および G O C (高温)容量維持率を向上させることが可能である。

[0042]

9. 結晶子径についての検討

ついで、表面に均質にジルコニウム(Zr)を添加したコバルト酸リチウム(LiCoO2)の結晶子径の大きさについて検討した。そこで、正極活物質 α (Zr:O.Olmolw) を合成する際に焼成温度を変化させて、結晶子径がそれぞれ異なる正極活物質 α 1 (851Å), α 2 (899Å), α 3 (952Å), α 4 (997Å), α 5 (1048Å), α 6 (1100Å), α 7 (1152Å), α 8 (1200Å) を作製した。【0043】

また、正極活物質 δ (2 r : 0 . 9 0 m o l %) を合成する際に焼成温度を変化させて、 結晶子径がそれぞれ異なる正極活物質 δ l (8 5 4 Å) . δ 2 (9 0 2 Å) , δ 3 (9 5 20

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O Å), δ 4 (997Å), δ 5 (1050Å), δ 6 (1101Å), δ 7 (1153Å), δ 8 (1201Å) を作製した。同様に、正極活物質 η (無添加)を合成する際に焼成温度を変化させて、結晶子径がそれぞれ異なる正極活物質 η 1 (848Å), η 2 (896Å), η 3 (950Å), η 4 (998Å), η 5 (1048Å), η 6 (1101Å), η 7 (1150Å), η 8 (1200Å) を作製した。

[0045]

[0044]

これらの各電池 A $1 \sim$ A 8 , D $1 \sim$ D 8 , G $1 \sim$ G 8 を用いて、上述と同様な方法により 25 ℃での容量維持率(%)を求めた。この後、正極活物質 α $1 \sim \alpha$ 8 (図 1 の〇印)、 δ $1 \sim \delta$ 8 (図 1 の Δ 印)、 η $1 \sim \eta$ 8 (図 1 の \Box 印)の結晶子径を横軸に表し、 25 ℃ での容量維持率(%)を縦軸としてグラフに表すと、図 1 に示すような結果が得られた。 【 0 0 4 6】

図 1 に示すグラフの結果から明らかなように、ジルコニウムの添加量を 0.01mo1%, 0.90mo1%に固定し、焼成温度を変化させて正極活物質(2rが表面に均質に添加された $LiCoO_2$)の結晶子径($^{\rm A}$)を変化させた場合、結晶子径が 1100 $^{\rm A}$ を超えたコバルト酸リチウム($LiCoO_2$)を用いると、ジルコニウムが無添加の正極活物質 $\eta1(848 ^{\rm A})$, $\eta2(896 ^{\rm A})$, $\eta3(950 ^{\rm A})$ を用いた電池 G1, G2, G3 よりも、 25 C でのサイクル容量維持率が下回ることが分かる。このことから、ジルコニウムの添加量を 0.01mo1% あるいは 0.90mo1% に固定した場合、結晶子径が 1100 $^{\rm A}$ 以下になるように調製したコバルト酸リチウム($LiCoO_2$)を用いるのが望ましいことが分かる。

[0047]

一方、これらの各電池 A $1\sim$ A 8, D $1\sim$ D 8, G $1\sim$ G 8 を用いて、上述と同様な方法により D S C 発熱開始温度を測定した。この後、正極活物質 α $1\sim\alpha$ 8 (図 2 の \bigcirc 印)、 δ $1\sim\delta$ 8 (図 2 の \bigcirc 印)、 η $1\sim\eta$ 8 (図 2 の \bigcirc 印)の結晶子径を横軸に表し、D S C 発熱開始温度($^{\circ}$ C)を縦軸としてグラフに表すと、図 2 に示すような結果が得られた。【 O O 4 8】

図 2 に示すグラフの結果から明らかなように、結晶子径が低下するとDSC発熱開始温度が低下するとともに、結晶子径が900Åを下回るようになると、ジルコニウムが無添加の正極活物質 η 1(848Å)を用いた電池G1よりも、DSC発熱開始温度が低下することが分かる。このことから、ジルコニウムの添加量を0.01mo1%あるいは0.90mo1%に固定した場合、結晶子径が900Å以上になるように調製したコバルト酸リチウム(LiCo0。)を用いるのが望ましいことが分かる。

[0049]

これらのことから、良好なサイクル性能、熱安定性を得るためには(110)ベクトル方向の結晶子径が900Å以上、1100Å以下のリチウム含有コバルト複合酸化物を選択して用いる必要がある。これにより、ジルコニウムの少量の添加(0.01mol%以上で、0.90mol%以下)で、容量低下や安全性低下を伴うことなく、サイクル性能の向上を達成できるようになる。

[0050]

【発明の効果】

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上述したように、本発明においては、コバルト源としてのコバルト化合物(例えば、炭酸コバルト、水酸化コバルト)の合成時に共沈によりジルコニウムが 0.1 mol%以上で、0.9 mol%以下添加された六方晶系のリチウム含有コバルト複合酸化物を正極活物質として用いるようにしている。この結果、ジルコニウムの少量の添加で、容量低下や安全性低下を伴うことなく、サイクル性能の向上を達成できるようになる。

[0051]

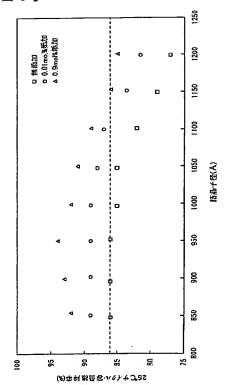
なお、上述した実施の形態においては、正極活物質として表面に均質にジルコニウムが添加された六方晶系のリチウム含有コバルト酸化物を用いる例について説明したが、六方晶系のリチウム含有コバルト酸化物のコバルトの一部を、バナジウム(V)、クロム(Cr)、鉄(Fe)、マンガン(Mn)、ニッケル(Ni)、アルミニウム(Al)などで置換したリチウム含有コバルト酸化物を用いるようにしてもよい。

【図面の簡単な説明】

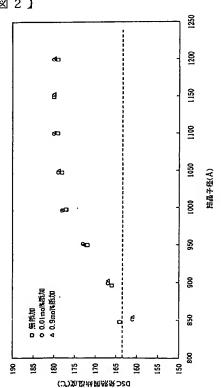
【図1】コバルト酸リチウムの結晶子径と、25℃でのサイクル容量維持率の関係を示す グラフである。

【図2】コバルト酸リチウムの結晶子径と、DSC発熱開始温度の関係を示すグラフである。

[図1]



【図2】



フロントページの続き

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HAO5 HAO6